

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

April/May 2007

Regents Approve 2006-07 Support Fund Awards

On April 26 the Board of Regents awarded \$22.3 million from the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund (LEQSF) to colleges and universities statewide to fund a variety of valuable educational and research programs for FY 2006-07.

"Louisiana's colleges and universities are extremely fortunate that the citizens of this state had the foresight to protect these funds exclusively for the enhancement of Louisiana schools, colleges and universities," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "Year-in and year-out these funds play a significant role in the ability of Louisiana's postsecondary institutions to fulfill their missions. And of course, as we continue to recover from the storms of 2005, the impact of the Support Fund is more important than ever."

The program is funded through a permanent trust fund approved by voters in a 1986 constitutional amendment. The original \$540 million payment was part of a settlement between the state and federal governments over disputed off-shore oil and gas royalties (sometimes called the "8(g) fund"). As of March 31, 2007, the value of the permanent trust fund had risen to over \$952 million dollars. Twenty-five percent of the earnings from the fund each year is reinvested in the fund. The Legislature appropriates half of the remaining interest earnings to the Board of Regents for higher education and the other half to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for grades K-12.

The Board of Regents component of the fund is known as the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). The Louisiana Constitution provides that the Board of Regents may use the fund to support any or all of the following programs: 1) carefully defined research efforts, 2) endowment of chairs for eminent scholars, 3) enhancement of the quality of academic research or agricultural departments or units; and 4) recruitment of superior graduate students. The fund supplies Louisiana colleges and universities with investments targeted at quality-critical areas ranging from faculty development to scientific equipment acquisition.

The Board's approval establishes the following award distribution:

Endowment of Chairs for Eminent Scholars - Total funding: \$2,800,000

Institutions receiving funding in this category are LSU A&M (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); LSU - Shreveport (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); Loyola University (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); Pennington Biomedical Research Center (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); University of New Orleans (\$800,000 for one \$2M chair); and Xavier University (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair).

Research and Development - Total funding: \$5,440,364 (\$2,313,831 in first-year funds)

Institutions receiving funding in this category include LSU Agricultural Center, LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Louisiana Tech, Loyola, McNeese, Pennington Biomedical Research

(continued on page 4)

Regents Swear In Two New Members

Robert Bruno, an attorney and real estate developer from Covington, and Maurice Durbin, a political and governmental consultant from Denham Springs, were recently named by Governor Kathleen Babineaux as the newest members of the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Bruno received his Bachelor of Arts degree from LSU and his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University School of Law. Bruno practices law in New Orleans and is an active member of the New Orleans Bar Association, the Louisiana Chapter of the Italian American Bar Association, and the Louisiana Association for Justice.

Durbin, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from LSU, is president of Maurice Durbin and Associates, a political and governmental consulting firm. A past board member of the Greater Denham Springs Chamber of

(continued on page 4)



New Board of Regents members Robert Bruno (left) and Maurice Durbin were sworn in, respectively, at the April and May Regents meetings.

The next Board of Regents meeting will be held
June 27-28, 2007



Pat A. Strong
Chair

Scott Brame
Vice Chair

Artis Terrel, Jr.
Secretary

Robert J. Bruno
Maurice C. Durbin
Richard E. D'Aquin
Ingrid T. Labat
Robert W. Levy
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Mary Ellen Roy

William Clifford Smith
Victor T. Stelly
Harold M. Stokes
Roland M. Toups
James Klock
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - April 25-26, 2007

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed research unit, progress reports on conditionally-approved programs, and proposed distance learning programs:

Proposed Research Unit

Louisiana State University and A&M College -
Stephenson Disaster Management Institute

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Center/ Institute/Programs

University of Louisiana-Lafayette - Center for Child
Development

Louisiana State University-Shreveport - Sport Science
Institute

Louisiana State University-Alexandria - A.S. in
Radiologic Technology

Nicholls State University - B.S. in Manufacturing
Technology

Fletcher Technical Community College: Associate of
General Studies; A.S. in Nursing ; A.A.S. in Technical
Studies; A.A.S. in Nautical Science

Louisiana Technical College-Lafayette - A.A.S. in
Surgical Technology

Southern University-Baton Rouge: Master of Business
Administration

Louisiana Delta Community College: A.S. in General
Science; A.A.S. in Business Technology

Proposed Distance Learning Programs

Northwestern State University - Bachelor of General
Studies; Associate of Business Administration; Associate of
Office Administration

Proposed Research Unit Termination

Louisiana State University and A&M College - Institute
for Ecological Infrastructure Engineering

Regents to Develop Proposal for National Mathematics and Science Initiative for Advanced Placement

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, reported that the Board of Regents has received a request for proposals from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) to implement a six-year, \$13 million Advanced Placement Program to be sponsored by ExxonMobil. The NMSI seeks to increase the number of students taking and scoring 3 or higher on the rigorous College Board Advanced Placement mathematics, science and English exams. The program requires the support of the governor and must be assisted by a non-profit or 501(c)(3) organization that has a statewide or regional mission. Submitted April 27, 2007, by the Committee for Sponsored Programs, the request is for a proposal that would replicate the successful model implemented in Texas by Advanced Placement Strategies, Inc. Davidson informed the Board that the Supporting Partner would provide guidance and financial, legal and management resources to the new organization or division.

Davidson also named several obstacles to overcome: integrating the initiative into the state's ongoing reform efforts, creating a non-profit whose leadership would be consistent with such efforts; and providing the six-year, \$2,400,000 in matching funds required to participate in the program.

Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program (RC/EEP) Moving Forward

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, reported that as of April 9, 2007, the Board had received 22 notices of intent to submit Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program (RC/EEP) proposals. Proposals were due on April 26, 2007, Davidson said.

The ultimate goal of RC/EEP economic planning is to chart directions Louisiana can take to adapt the Georgia Research Alliance to the State's special history and circumstances, Davidson said. Challenges for the program include the creation and sustenance of key coalitions across university, business and governmental sectors that lead to targeted and sustained research and commercialization investments.

RC/EEP economic development planning consists of two phases. Phase I, which suggested research and educational economic development roles for campuses in the severely impacted parishes, was completed in January 2007. Phase II, which proposes similar directions for campuses state-wide, is expected to be completed by October 2007, Davidson said. Through a single-stage process, a panel reviewed proposals, interviewed applicants, and will make funding recommendations during June 2007, then the Board will act on the funding recommendations.

According to Davidson, Phase II planning is well underway. With some public forums having been held in April and May, there are additional public forums, campus interviews and data gathering for the Statewide Strategic Plan scheduled for June. The first draft of the strategic plan will be received in July 2007, Davidson said. It will then be transmitted to stakeholders and the public for comments with statewide public hearings related to the plan anticipated during August 2007. If everything goes as planned, the Statewide Strategic Plan will be completed in September 2007, Davidson added.

**For more information about
these and other
Board of Regents
actions, please visit our
web site at
www.regents.state.la.us**

Board Action - May 23-24, 2007

Regents Approve Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative Awards

The Board of Regents awarded funds totaling \$24.2 million to eleven Louisiana colleges and universities through its Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative (PKSFI). The initiative began in December of 2005 when the Regents voted to set aside \$26.8 million from the Board of Regents Support Fund to 1) underwrite scientific projects targeted to advance science in Louisiana at national and international levels, accelerate economic development and lead to the establishment of nationally-recognized research centers, and 2) fund educational reforms which strengthen Louisiana's scientific student pipeline. The Board's action funds four research proposals for a total of \$20.1 million, and seven education proposals for a total of approximately \$4.1 million.

The areas of concentration specified under the research subprogram were biological sciences, materials sciences, and information technology, all disciplines identified as having particular value in light of Louisiana's research strengths and opportunities for economic development. Under the education subprogram, it was specified that proposals provide plans for the improvement of undergraduate science education that feature broad impact/workforce development potential, institutional leveraging, sustainability and scalability, and a provision for assessment.

"Each of the research and educational enhancement projects funded today through the Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative addresses critical economic or educational issues facing our state — not simply issues directly related to recovery, but also those impacting the long-term quality of life of our citizens," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "I'm very pleased with the response we received from our institutions across the state."

"All of the proposals received under each subprogram were carefully evaluated by out-of-state reviewers selected for their nationally-recognized expertise in a variety of research or education specialization areas," said Dr. Kerry Davidson, Board of Regents Deputy Commissioner of Sponsored Programs and primary coordinator of the Post Katrina Support Fund Initiative. "The reviewers were very complimentary of the overall high quality of the proposals submitted for evaluation. This confirms our confidence that this initiative will achieve its intended goals."

The lead institutions receiving funding for collaborative projects under the PKSFI Primarily Research Subprogram were: LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans (\$5,500,000); Louisiana Tech University (\$3,600,000); LSU – Baton Rouge (\$7,000,000), and the University of New Orleans (\$5,000,000).

The seven institutions selected to receive funding for projects under the PKSFI Primarily Education Subprogram were: LSU-Shreveport (\$406,075), Xavier University (\$1,047,125), Southeastern Louisiana University (\$425,000), Delgado Community College (\$965,000), Nicholls State University (\$500,000), Loyola University (\$625,000), and McNeese State University (\$163,000).

An on-line slide presentation contains additional information on the Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative, including details on the proposals submitted and funded, collaborating institutions, the review process, the review panels, and disbursement of award funds. To access the presentation go to <http://laregents.org/P-KSFI.ppt>.

Master Plan Advisory Panel Meetings Slated

Dr. Karen Denby, Senior Policy Analyst for the Board of Regents, provided the Board an update on the development of the new Master Plan May 23. In a meeting of the Planning, Research, and Performance Committee, Dr. Denby shared a schedule of Workgroup meetings that were recently held or scheduled for the upcoming month. Several Workgroups, as well as the full National Advisory Panel, are scheduled to meet while the Board is in Baton Rouge for its June meetings, she said. Members were encouraged to attend.

The June meeting schedule is as follows (Workgroup chair indicated in parentheses):

June 7 – 9:00 a.m. - noon. - Formula Funding (Brenda Albright)- Claiborne Bldg: BOR Conference Room

June 28 – 8:30 -11:30 a.m. - University Research (Paul Lingenfelter) - Claiborne Bldg: BOR Conference Room

June 28 – 1:30-4:00 p.m. - Access (David Spence) - Claiborne Bldg: BOR Conference Room

June 28 – 1:30-4:00 p.m. - Board Development (Richard Novak) - Claiborne Bldg: Colorado Rm (1st Floor)

June 28 – 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. - Retention/Graduation (Kevin Crockett) - Claiborne Bldg: Marbois Rm (1st Floor)

June 28 – 1:15-4:00 p.m. - Adult Education & Workforce Development (combined group meeting: Gordon Davies & Dennis Jones, chairs) - BRCC Library: Magnolia Rm (tentative location)

In addition, there will be a meeting of the full Advisory Panel on Friday morning, 29 June, from 8:30 a.m. until noon in the Board of Regents Conference Room, Claiborne Bldg. Meetings are open; all are welcome. For more information, or to advise of plans to attend, please contact Karen Denby at 342-4253, or by e-mail at karen.denby@la.gov.

Support Fund Awards (from page 1)

Center, Southeastern, Tulane, University of LA at Lafayette, University of LA at Monroe, and UNO.

Enhancement of the Quality of Departments/Units - \$10,015,527 in first-year funds

Institutions receiving funding in this category include Baton Rouge Community College, Bossier Parish Community College, Centenary College, Delgado Community College, Dillard University, Fletcher Technical Community College, Grambling University, Louisiana College, Louisiana Delta Community College, LSU Agricultural Center, LSU- Alexandria, LSU - Baton Rouge, LSU - Eunice, LSU - Shreveport, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Louisiana Tech, Loyola, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, Nunez Community College, River Parishes Community College, South Louisiana Community College, Southeastern, Southern University A&M, Southern University - New Orleans, Southern University - Shreveport, Tulane, University of LA at Lafayette, University of LA at Monroe, and UNO.

Also under this category is funding for **Endowed Professorships**, which will be awarded at a later date.

Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students - Total funding \$4,060,000 (\$1,150,000 in first-year funds)

Institutions receiving funding in this category include LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Louisiana Tech, Nicholls, Tulane University, Tulane Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and UNO.

The BoRSF funds are awarded through a competitive, selective review process, incorporating the expertise of approximately 400 out-of-state reviewers. For FY 2006-07, 712 proposals and applications from 36 campuses were considered. The proposals represented a total requested first-year funding amount of more than \$56 million.

Through June 2006, the BoRSF has generated \$694.8 million in new external funding for Louisiana higher education from federal, private and other non-support fund sources. An additional \$275.9 million has been generated for Endowed Chairs and Professorships, creating 237 one-million-dollar chairs and 24 two-million-dollar chairs at 24 universities across the state, as well as 1,760 endowed professorships at 36 campuses.

For additional, campus-specific information on the LEQSF awards (including amounts) contact Kevin Hardy at the Board of Regents.

New Board Members (from page 1)

Commerce, she is active in a variety of civic organizations, including Denham Springs Green (vice-president), Pet Aid (vice president), and The Red Shoes (treasurer).

“Both Mr. Bruno and Ms. Durbin bring valuable experience and points of view to the Board of Regents,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “I look forward to the contributions they will make to Louisiana public higher education through their service on the Board.”

Bruno was officially sworn in at the Board of Regents April meeting in New Orleans. Durbin was sworn in at the Regents’ May meeting in Baton Rouge.